



*California*  
STATE LANDS COMMISSION  
*Land Management Division*



*Land Management Division*  
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*The Commissioners*

*Cruz M. Bustamante, Lieutenant Governor*

*Steve Westly, State Controller*

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### ***History***

The California State Lands Commission (CSLC) was created by the California Legislature in 1938 as an independent body, composed of three members—the Lieutenant Governor and State Controller, both statewide elected officials, and the Director of Finance, an appointee of the Governor. The CSLC was given the authority and responsibility to manage and protect the important natural and cultural resources on certain public lands within the state and the public's rights to access these lands. The public lands under the Commission's jurisdiction are of two distinct types—sovereign and school lands. Sovereign lands encompass approximately 4 million acres. These lands include the beds of California's naturally navigable rivers, lakes and streams, as well as the state's tide and submerged lands along the state's more than 1,100 miles of coastline, extending from the shoreline out to three miles offshore. In short, the CSLC's jurisdiction extends to more than 120 rivers and sloughs, 40 lakes and the state's coastal waters.

School lands are what remain of the nearly 5.5 million acres throughout the state originally granted to California by the Congress in 1853 to benefit public education. The state retains surface and mineral ownership of approximately 478,000 acres of these school lands and retains the mineral rights to an additional 790,000 acres. Today, revenues generated from school lands benefit California's retired teachers.

The Commission is supported by a staff of more than 200, including specialists in mineral resources, land management, boundary determination, structural engineering, natural sciences, safety management, marine terminal operations and oil spill prevention.

### ***Mission Statement***

The California State Lands Commission serves the people of California by providing stewardship of the lands, waterways, and resources entrusted to its care through economic development, protection, preservation, and restoration.

### ***Vision Statement***

The California State Lands Commission works as a team to set the standard for excellence in public land management and resource protection to ensure the future quality of the environment and balanced use of the lands and resources entrusted to its care.



## *Land Management Division*

The Land Management Division (LMD) has primary responsibility for the surface management of all sovereign and school lands in California. This responsibility includes the identification, location, and evaluation of the State's interest in these lands and its leasing and management.

To accomplish these tasks, LMD is staffed with more than 60 public land managers, title specialists, boundary specialists, surveyors, appraisers, and graphic designers. The LMD staff is organized into seven primary working groups: title, appraisal, school lands, granted lands, graphic arts, and two management teams, each of which works on a specific geographic area of the State. Each of the geographic teams also includes an attorney from the Legal Division.



*Mono Lake, eastern Sierra Nevada.*

## *Leases and Permits*

Public and private entities may apply to the Commission for leases or permits on state lands for many purposes including marinas, industrial wharves, dredging, sand mining, tanker anchorages, grazing, right-of-ways, bank protection, recreational uses, etc. Applications for use of any of these lands can be made to the Commission. They must include an outline of the proposed project, supporting environmental data, and payment of appropriate fees. Staff then reviews such applications and makes recommendations to the Commission for action.



*Lake Tahoe, eastern Sierra Nevada.*

The Commission may lease sovereign lands for any public trust purpose, and is often called upon to prioritize competing trust values in deciding whether to issue a lease for a proposed project. Commission leases of sovereign lands generally fall into several categories: recreational, commercial, industrial, right-of-way, and salvage. Specific examples of such leases include private recreational piers, commercial marinas, yacht clubs, marine terminals, industrial wharves, oil and gas pipelines, fiber optic cables, outfalls, bank stabilization, and wetlands and habitat management projects.

### ***Land Boundaries***

With recent population increases and development pressures, resolution to land title problems is becoming more important. The location and extent of sovereign lands are generally defined by reference to the ordinary high and low water marks of tidal and navigable waterways. Because the boundaries of these lands are often legally based upon the last natural extent and location of the subject water body, they are not necessarily apparent from a present day site inspection, and substantial research is needed to define the extent of the State's ownership interests.

In order to resolve these problems, research has concentrated on assembling data from historic maps and surveys, libraries and archives, interviews with historians and longtime residents of the affected areas, and recent on-site surveys. The result of such studies for a particular parcel of land may be a "boundary line agreement" or a negotiated "title settlement."



*American River.*

### ***Granted Lands***

Early in its history, the California Legislature transferred, by statute, tide and submerged lands in trust to 85 cities, counties, and harbor districts. These lands are known as “granted lands.” The major ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Diego, San Francisco, Oakland, Richmond, Benicia, and Eureka are all located on granted lands. Granted lands are monitored by the Commission to ensure compliance with the terms of the statutory grants and the Public Trust.

### ***Kapiloff Land Bank***

The Commission is committed to protecting and restoring wetlands through the administration of the Kapiloff Land Bank Fund which was established by the Legislature and is supported with funds collected by the state as part of land title settlements. Using its authority to exchange parcels of filled and reclaimed land within its jurisdiction for other lands with greater Public Trust value, the Commission has acquired thousands of acres of valuable wetlands and lands to be restored to wetlands which it manages in partnership with other federal, state, and local agencies. Examples include Bolsa Chica and the Cosumnes River wetlands.

### ***Hazard Removal***

To assure the public’s health and safety on beach areas and waterways under its jurisdiction, the Commission has developed a program to remove man-made structures which may be hazardous to the public’s health and safety. The structures are removed according to a priority removal plan which relies on the Legislature for funding.

## *Shipwrecks*

Through the administration of the California Shipwreck and Historic Marine Resources Program, enacted by the State Legislature in 1989, the Commission strives to protect the historical value and environmental integrity of shipwreck sites, while providing some recovery by both public and private individuals. The recovery and restoration of the *Brother Jonathan* shipwreck is a result of this program.



*Sonoma coast.*



*Cosumnes River Preserve.*

## *Customer Information*

The Land Management Division (LMD) is responsible for ensuring that the lands and resources under its jurisdiction are managed in a way that protects the public's health and safety, and the environment. LMD encourages cooperation with local, state, regional, and federal agencies. Customers are encouraged to contact LMD for additional information about our jurisdiction or programs at (916) 574-1940 or in writing at the address on the back cover.